



Press Release

COCERAL, OVOCOM and AIC sign mutual recognition agreements

COCERAL, OVOCOM and AIC have recently signed recognition agreements which seal the mutual recognition of GTP (COCERAL), GMP (OVOCOM), and UFAS, FEMAS and TASCC (AIC). These agreements apply with immediate effect and cover the collection, storage, trading and transport of feed materials of vegetable origin and the production of feed ingredients and compound feed. The precise modalities and conditions for application of these agreements are detailed further below.

The three organisations welcomed this positive outcome which is the result of joint coordinated efforts over the last 18 months. It represents a significant step towards a more efficient, transparent and free agricultural market and will allow operators to save costs and time thanks to combined audits.



This agreement was reached on the basis of the GMP, UFAS, FEMAS and TASCC documents currently applicable and an amended version of the GTP Code and certification rules to be published in the coming weeks and to enter into force as from 1st January 2012. A transition period ending on 31st December 2011 will be accepted for GTP certificates issued according to the October 2010 version of the GTP.

COCERAL, OVOCOM and AIC are committed to strengthen cooperation via a more efficient exchange of information, a more systematic sharing of expertise on technical issues as well as more harmonised procedures in case of crisis management involving each other certified companies.



The recognition covers the feed sector for the following scopes and according to the following standards:

Scope and activity	OVOCOM standard and reference document	COCERAL standard and reference document (module)	AIC standard and reference document
Production of feed	BC-02	Not applicable	FEMAS for feed ingredients UFAS for premixtures and compound feed
Merchanting of feed and combinable crops	BC-03	GTP modules for Trading, Collection, Storage and dispatch.	UFAS Merchanting for feed materials and compound feed TASCC Merchanting for combinable crops
Storage and transshipment of animal feed and combinable crops for food and feed use	BC-04	GTP module for Storage	TASCC storage
Transport of animal feed and combinable crops for food and feed use by road	BC-05	GTP module Dispatch, Delivery and Transport *	TASCC Haulage
Affreightment of animal feed and combinable crops for food and feed use by means of inland waterway transport	BC-06	Not applicable	Not applicable
Affreightment of animal feed and combinable crops for food and feed use by means of marine transport	BC-07	Not applicable	Not applicable
Transport of animal feed and combinable crops for food and feed use by inland waterway	BC-08	GTP module Dispatch, Delivery and Transport *	Not applicable





Transport of animal feed and combinable crops for food and feed use by railroad	BC-09	GTP module Dispatch, Delivery and Transport *	Not applicable
* As the GTP module on transport is not autonomous, mutual recognition will only apply provided that the certification of the GTP company covers transport combined with one of the other certifiable activities under the remit of the GTP (e.g. storage, collection and/or trading)			

Mutual recognition between GTP and GMP

In practice, GMP or GTP certified companies will be allowed to collect, store, trade and transport assured goods originating from the other scheme participants without any additional fee or requirements.

However, should a GMP or GTP certified company make use of the gatekeeper principle and source feed materials from non-certified operators, it must then comply with the relevant extra-conditions for application as laid down in the GTP Chapter II, Section 3.2.3: 'Requirements for purchasing' and GMP document 'BT-02: Purchase - General provisions'.

This agreement will last for a period of four years as from the date of its signature, i.e. 26th August 2011.

Mutual recognition between GTP and UFAS, FEMAS and TASCC

Each party will recognise that the following standards of the GTP scheme of COCERAL and the UFAS, TASCC and FEMAS schemes of AIC are exchangeable under and in respect of listed conditions.

Based on this principle, the companies certified for one of the certification schemes are entitled to supply products and services to companies certified for the other certification scheme without any additional requirement or fee needed.

This agreement will last for a period of four years as from the date of its signature, i.e. 14th July 2011.

Mutual recognition agreement between GMP and UFAS, FEMAS and TASCC

In practice, GMP or UFAS, FEMAS or TASCC certified companies will be allowed to accept products and/or services originating from the other scheme participants without any additional fee. Operators certified against FEMAS, UFAS and TASCC for the activity 'Trade and Merchanting' supply only goods originating from assured sources with the exception of feed materials originating directly from the primary producer. GMP certified operators will only supply goods from assured sources or under the conditions as laid down in the GMP document 'BT-02: Purchase - General provisions'

END



Note to Editors

COCERAL, based in Belgium is the European representation of the agri-supply trade and the owner of the GTP (Good Trading Practice) scheme.

www.coceral.com



OVOCOM, again based in Belgium, is focused on the safe production and delivery of animal feed and owner of the GMP Animal Feed (Good Manufacturing/Management Practices) scheme.

www.ovocom.be

AIC (Agricultural Industries Confederation) is a UK based agri-supply trade association who own the following schemes: FEMAS (Feed Materials Assurance scheme), UFAS (Universal Feed Assurance Scheme) and TASC (Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops).

www.agindustries.org.uk